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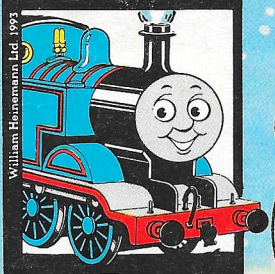

William Heinemann Ltd 1993

31st Dec. 93
No. 162 65p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Wedgwood Competition INSIDE!

Thomas and Trevor wish everyone a Happy Christmas!

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NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! It's Christmas time on the Island of Sodor and the Fat Controller's Engines are getting ready for all the special Christmas celebrations! The children on the Island have also been invited to a Christmas Eve party. When you read the story on page 3, you can find out where it will be held! Don't miss our second story either to see how lucky Thomas has been this Christmas! Peep! Peep!

CHRISTMAS COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** for your chance to win some exciting prizes from **Wedgwood's Nurseryware Collection**, which includes a **Mug** and **Oatmeal Set**, and a *hexagonal* **Money Box** set (see pic).

How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Age** .....

THOMAS TOKEN

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

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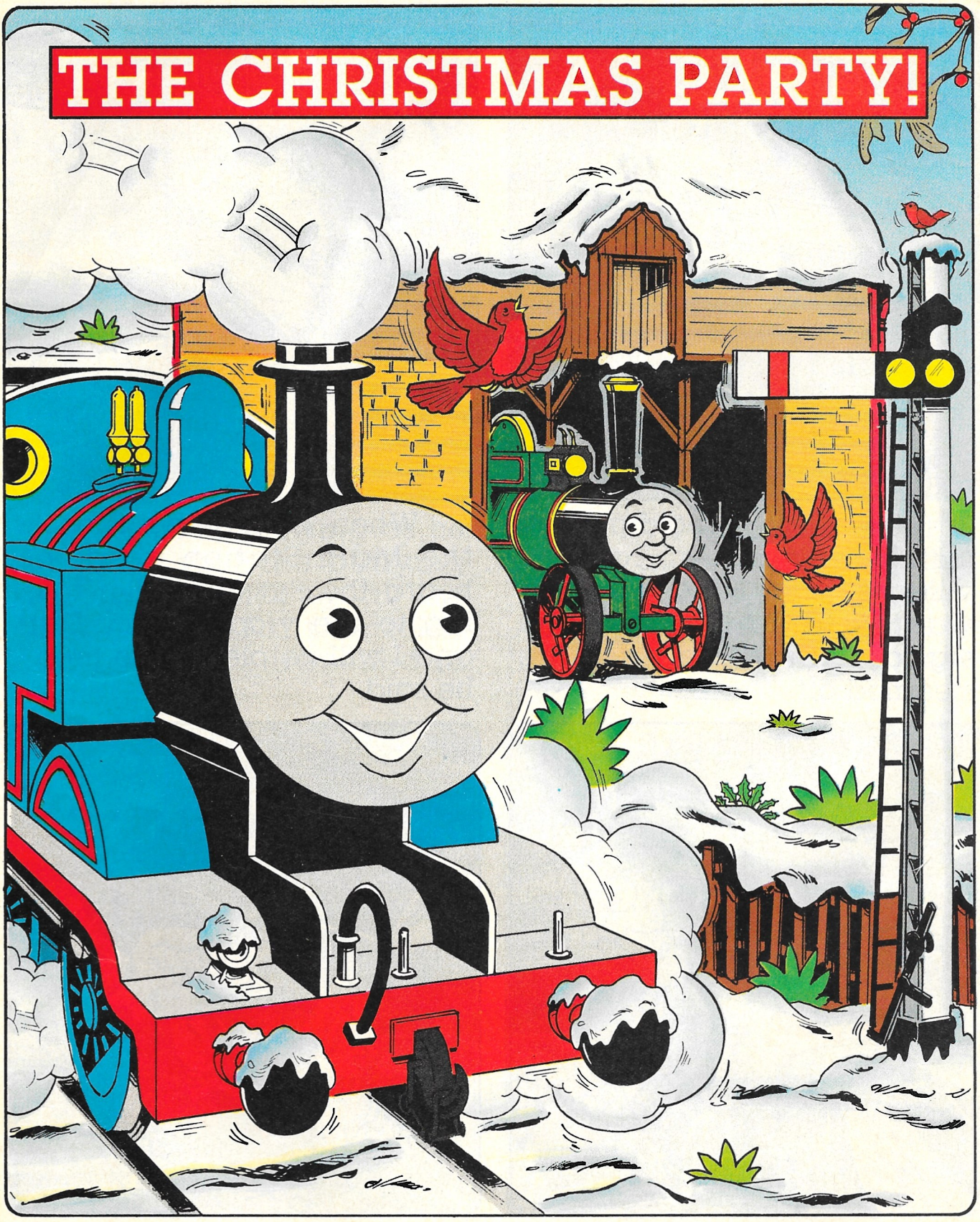
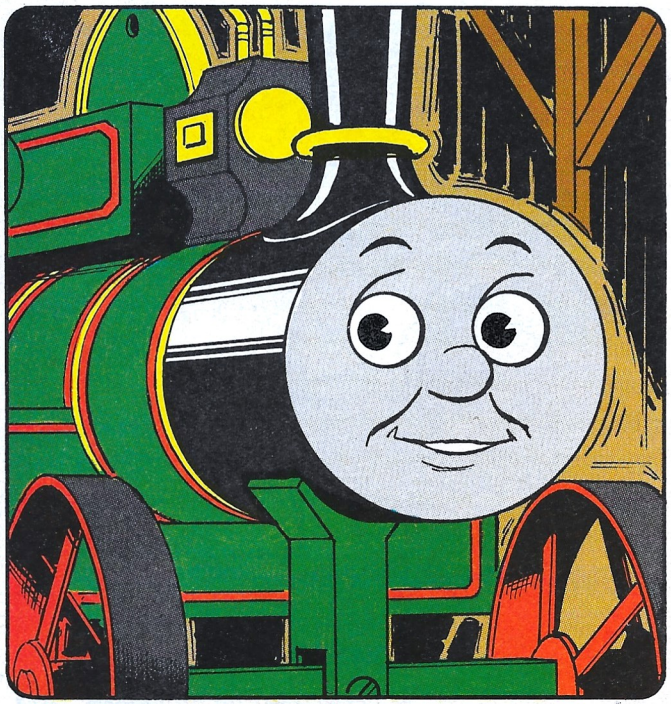
THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

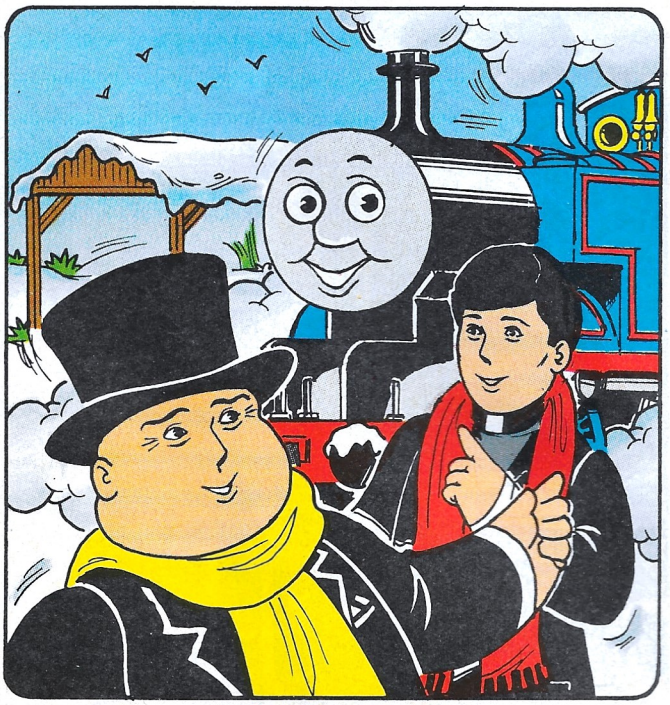


1. It was two days before Christmas. As Thomas puffed busily through the snow on his branch line, he pulled up to wait at a signal near the vicarage orchard.

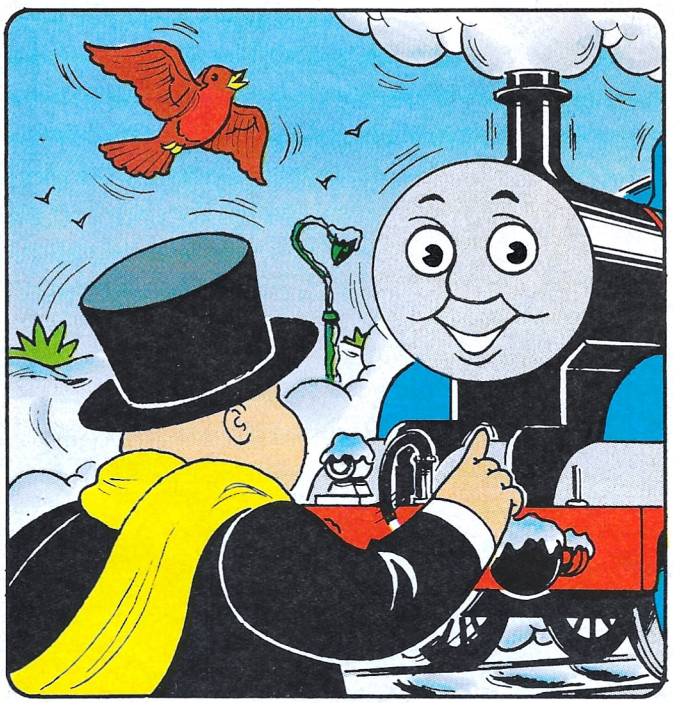
2. "Hello, Thomas!" called Trevor the Traction Engine excitedly, from his shed. "Are you coming to the big party on Christmas Eve?" "What party?" asked Thomas.



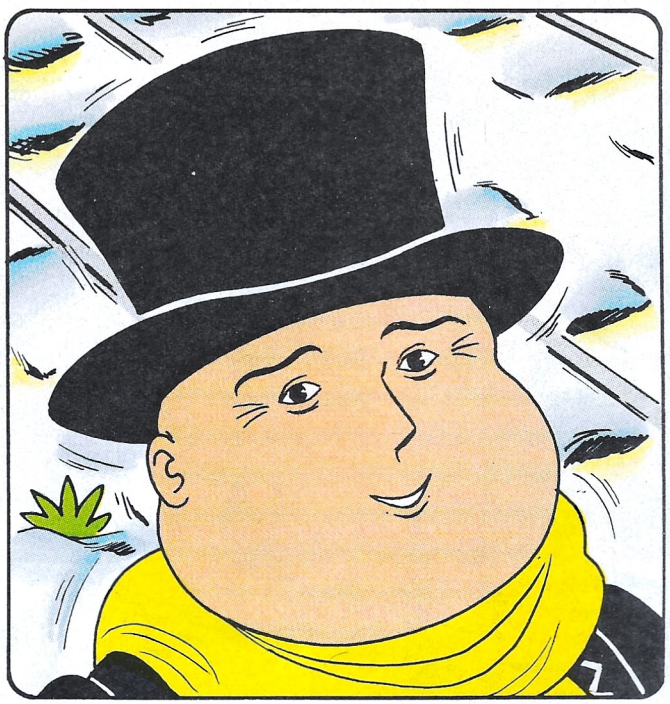
3. "The vicar is holding one for all the children from the villages," said Trevor. Thomas wanted to go too! Then the signal changed so he steamed off.



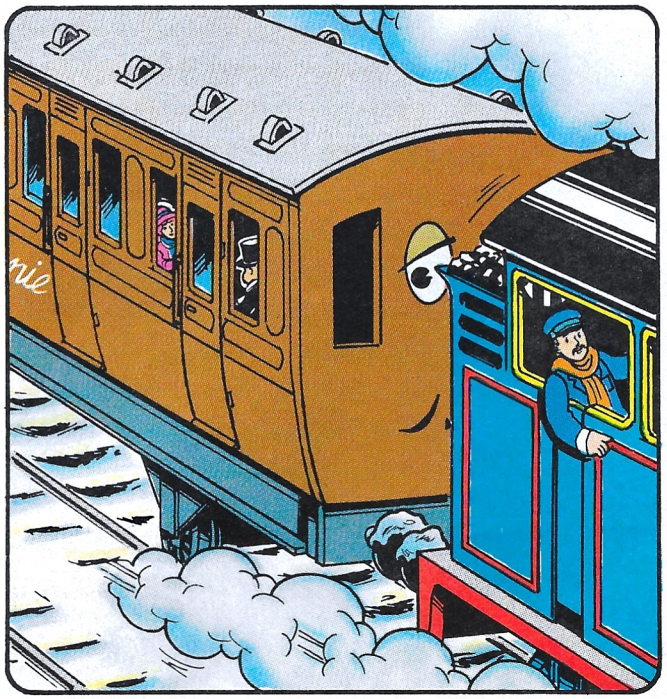
4. When Thomas returned to the Main Station yard, he heard the Fat Controller talking to the vicar. "Lady Hatt and I will be pleased to help," he said.



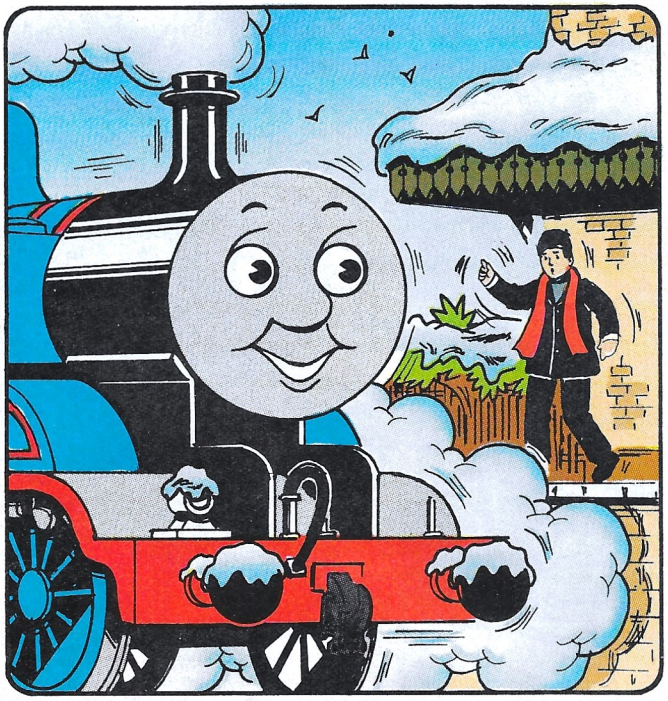
5. After the vicar had left, the Fat Controller came to see Thomas. "You are to collect everyone tomorrow for the vicar's Christmas Eve party," he said.



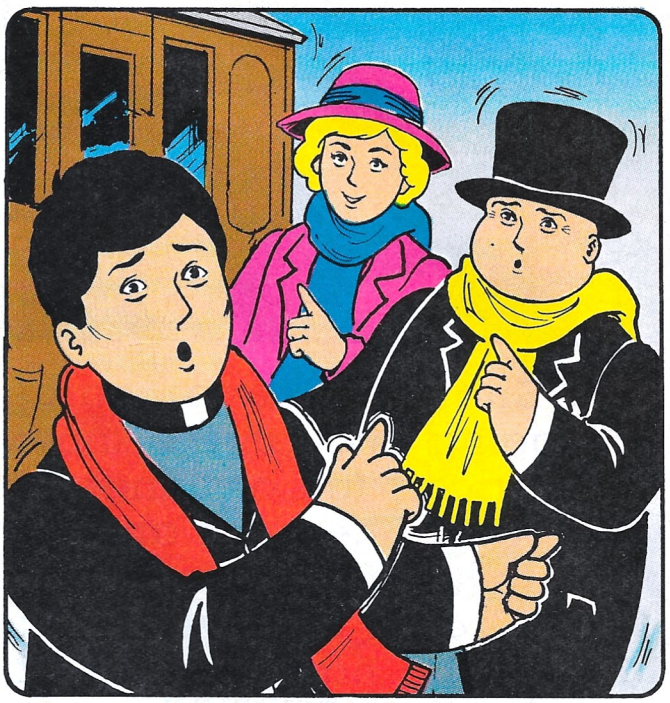
6. "Lady Hatt and I will be coming to look after the children," added the Fat Controller. The next day, Thomas was coupled to Annie and Clarabel.



7. It was still snowing as he set off to visit the outlying stations and pick up all the children. The Fat Controller and Lady Hatt travelled in Annie.

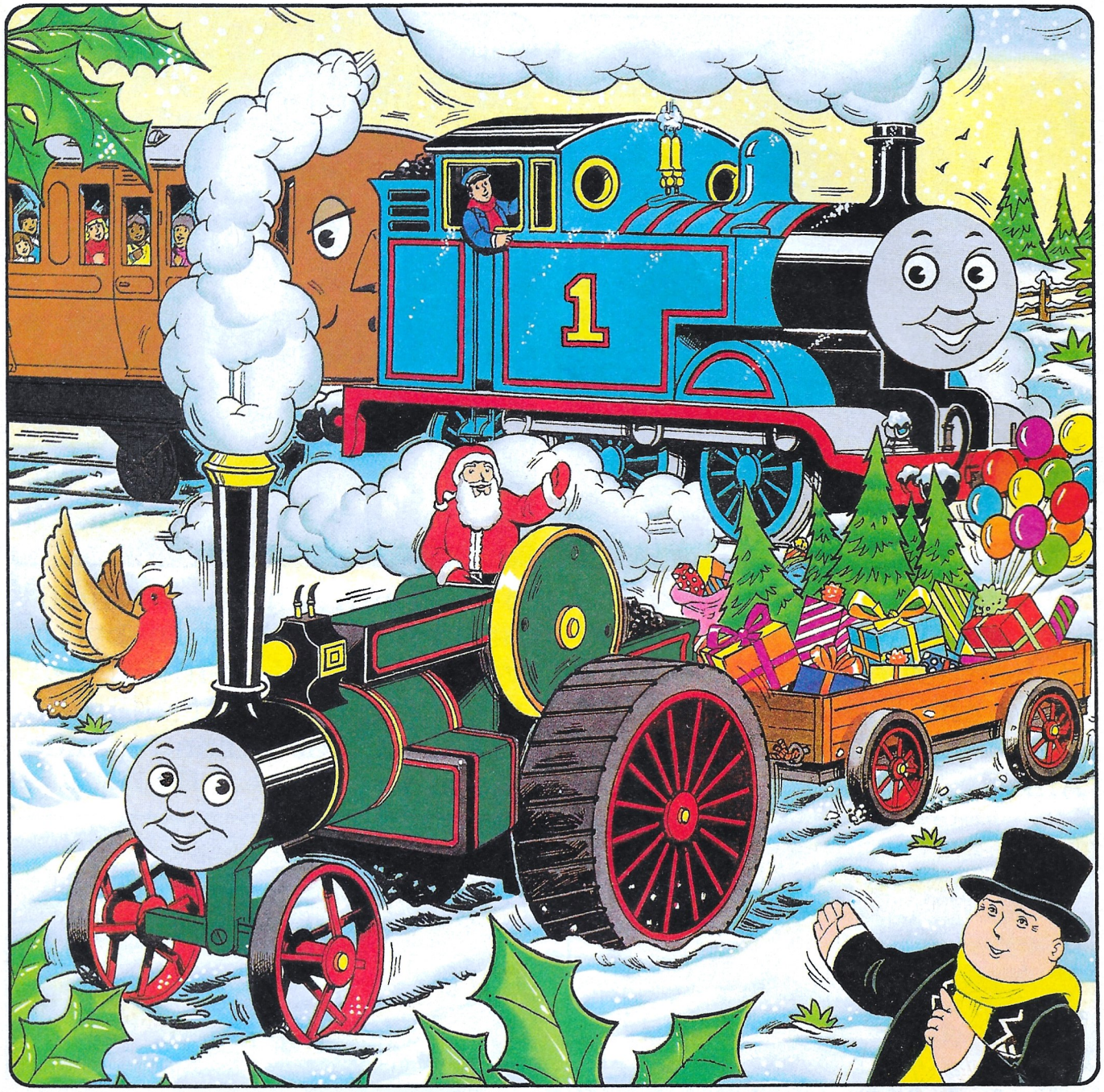


8. When Thomas finally arrived at the station by the vicarage, his faithful carriages were full of children. The vicar was waiting to meet them.



9. "The boiler has broken down," he told the Fat Controller. "There's no heating in the vicarage. I don't know what to do!" "I do!" replied Lady Hatt.

10. "We'll hold the party in Annie and Clarabel!" she smiled. "We can soon fetch all the decorations and food." But Thomas was worried about Trevor.



11. "Trevor was so looking forward to the Christmas party," he thought. "Now he'll be left alone at the vicarage while everyone else is having fun!" Then Thomas had an idea. He told the Fat Controller who thought it was splendid. The Fat Controller set off with the vicar while Thomas rolled into a siding.

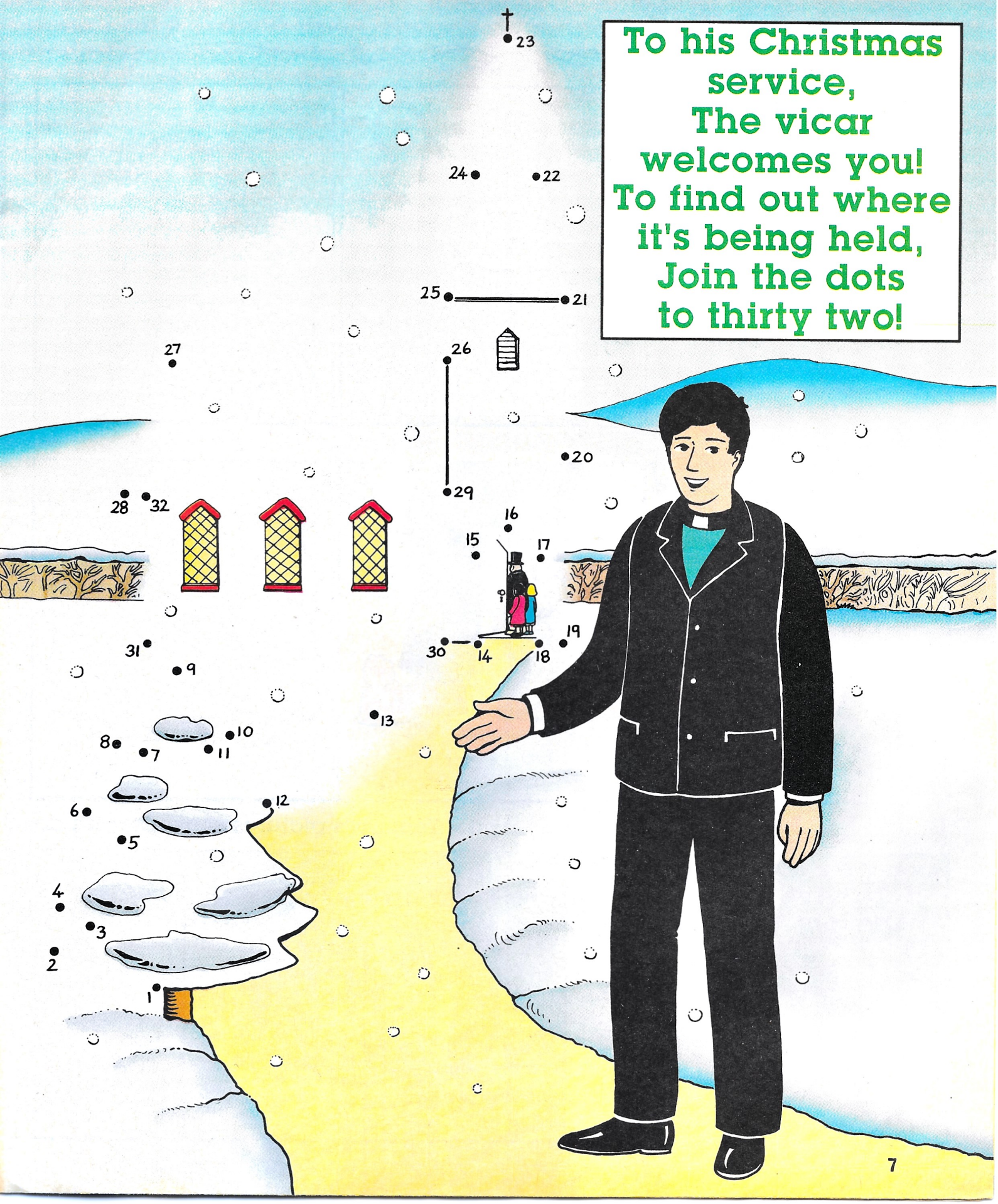
12. Shortly, Trevor came chugging through the snow, with a cart full of things for the party. The vicar and Fat Controller were with him. So was Trevor's driver, Jem Cole, who had dressed up as Santa. The children cheered. "Poop! Poop!" whistled Trevor. "Now we can all enjoy the party!" grinned Thomas.

THE END!

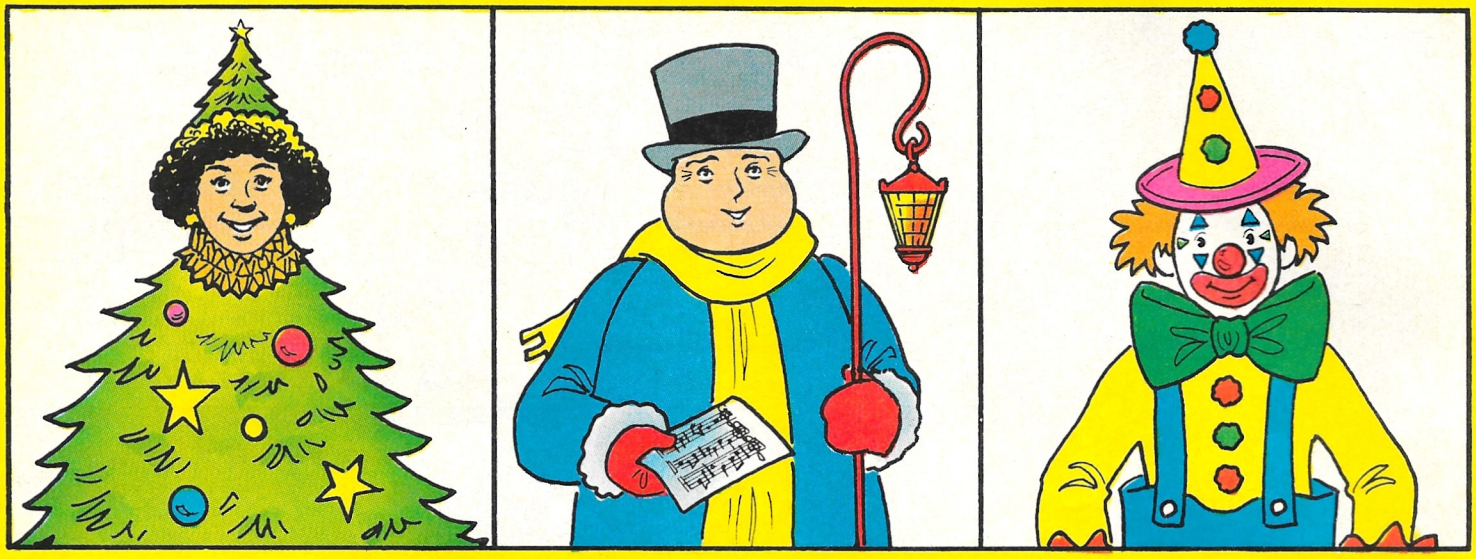
In our next issue: Happy Hogmanay!

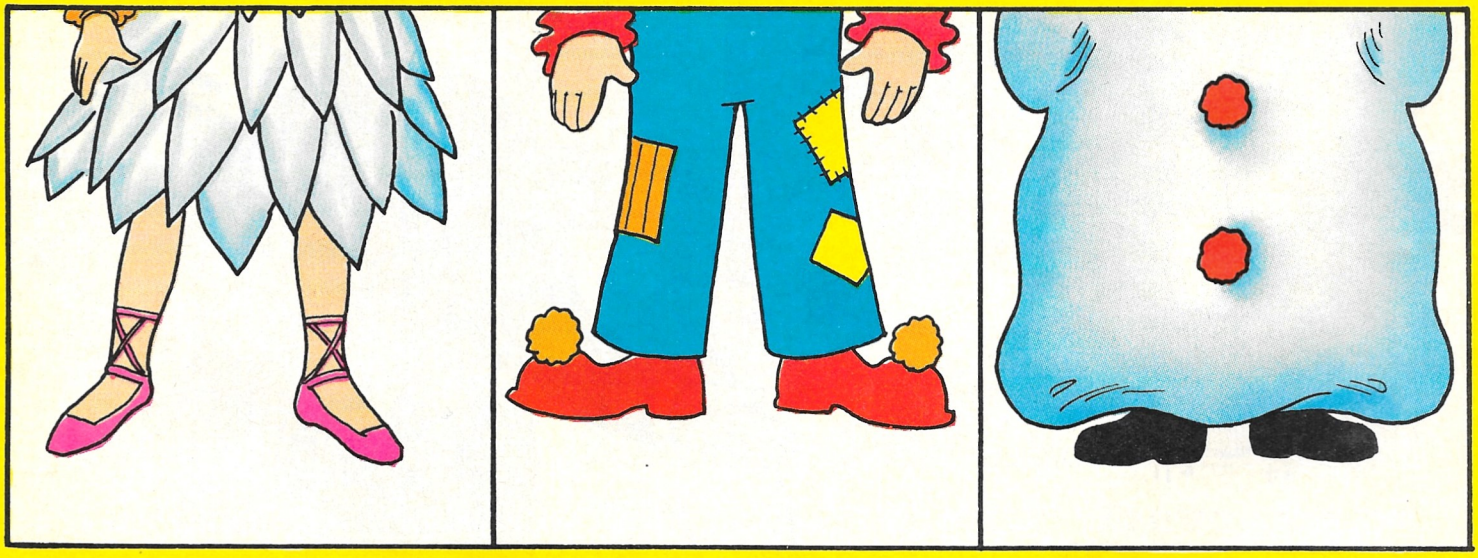
JOIN THE DOTS!

To his Christmas service,
The vicar welcomes you!
To find out where it's being held,
Join the dots to thirty two!



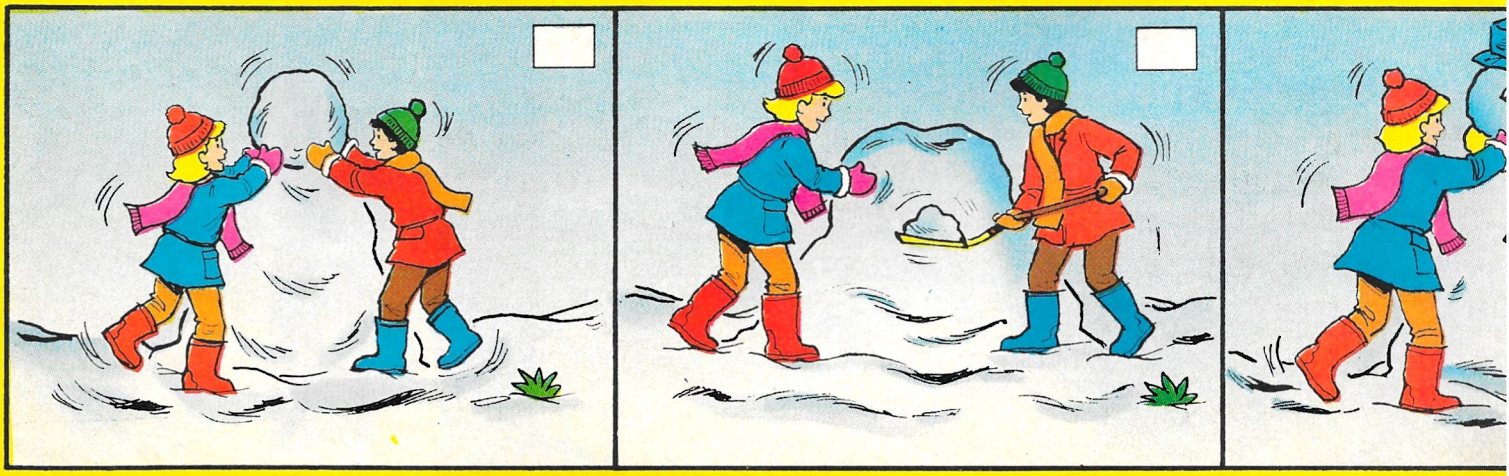
Christmas Fun!



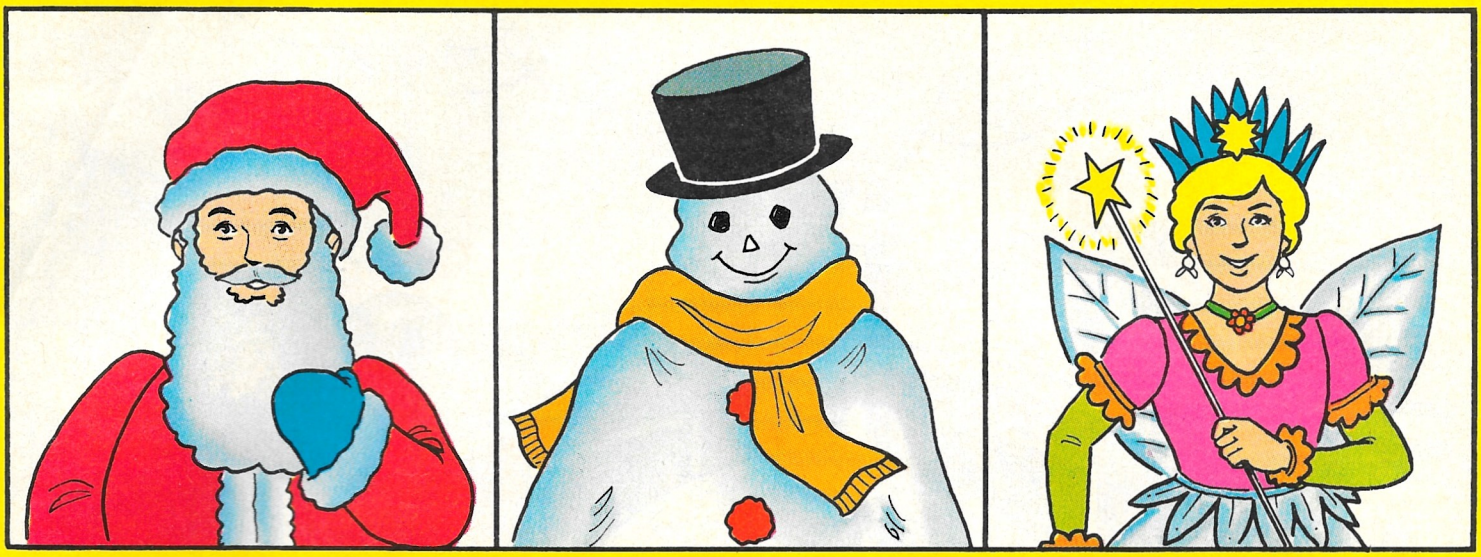


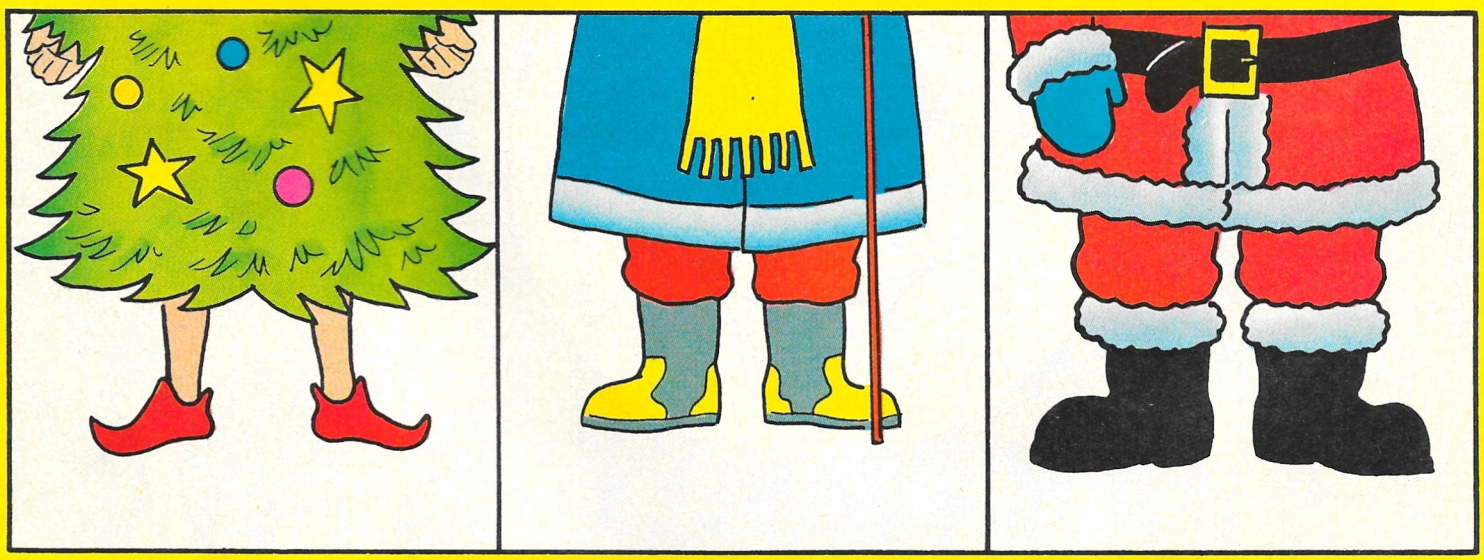
BUILD A SNOWMAN!

Thomas's pictures show how it's done



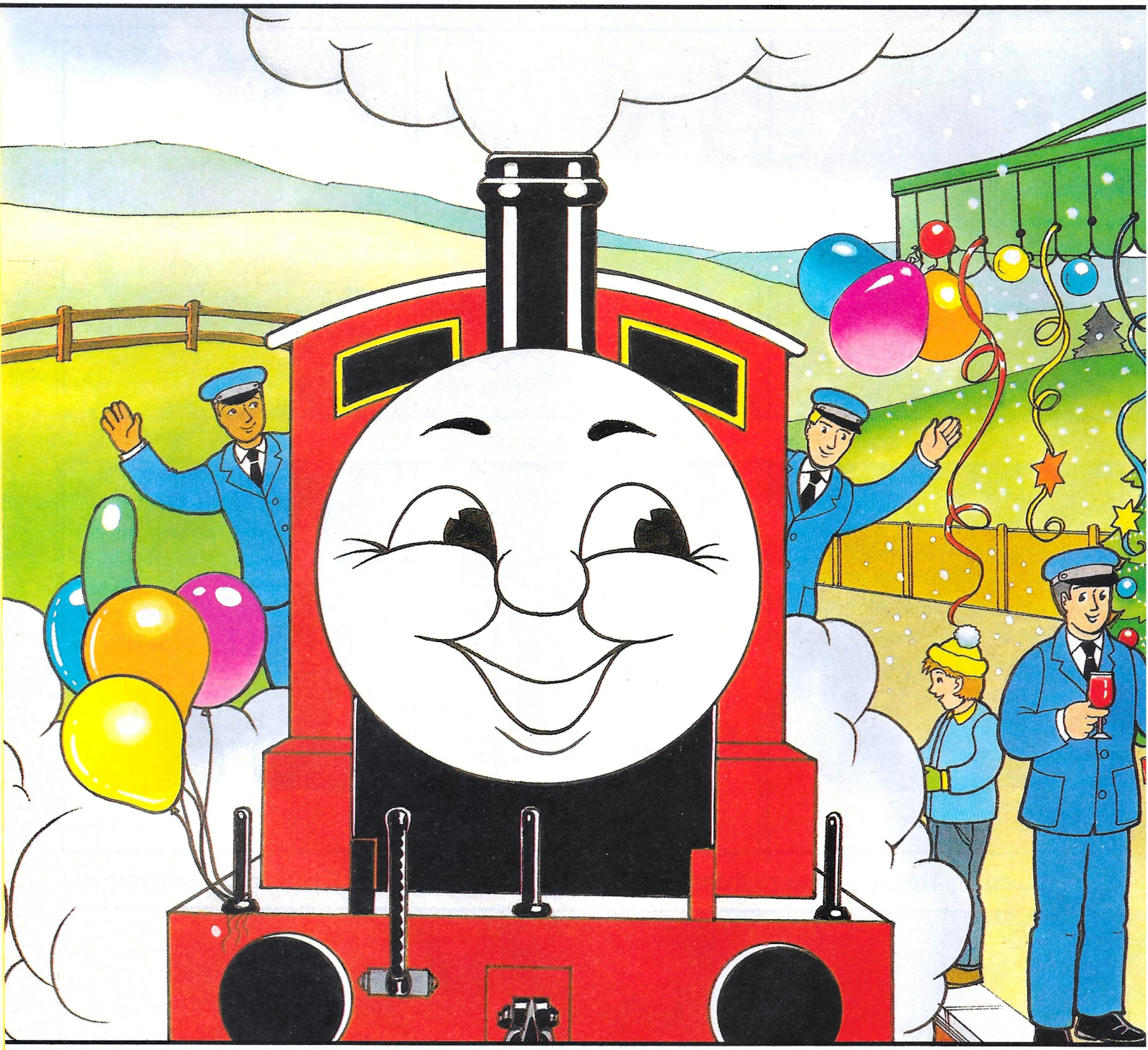
Everyone who works on the Fat Controller's Railway is going to a Christmas Fancy Dress Party! You're invited to join in their favourite party game - matching up TWO halves of a costume to make ONE complete Fancy Dress. Now, take a pen or a pencil and draw a line between each picture box to match up the top and bottom halves!





Number them in the right order - then draw your own Christmas Snowman!

Christmas



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
How many drivers are in his cabin?
Can you see the Fat Controller?

Point to the station p
What do you think th
Point to the Christmo
How many balloons

s party!

atform!
e children are celebrating?
s tree!
an you count?

Don't miss our next four issues of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for your four part winter game, beginning in issue 163!

WHO'S WHISTLING?

"Peep! Peep!" Thomas whistled as he returned to the Main Station one afternoon, with Annie and Clarabel full of Christmas shoppers.

"Poop! Poop!" an engine replied, out of sight in a siding. Thomas knew who it was straightaway.

"That's Duck!" he grinned. "I'd recognise his whistle anywhere."

As Thomas approached the platform, he spotted the very last coach of a passenger train disappearing round a bend in the track.

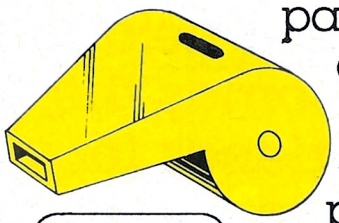
"Pheeeep!" came a shrill cry.

"There goes Gordon with the Express!" grinned Thomas. "His whistle is the loudest of all."

"Pip-peep!" called another engine, from the yard.

"And that's Percy!" thought Thomas. "All my friends make a different sound with their whistles!"

As Thomas waited for his passengers to get off, he saw workmen were painting an empty stock-room near the ticket office. Two of them were fixing up a big sign. **'Railway Christmas Shop'**, it read.



whistle

The Fat Controller came to see Thomas.

"I've decided to open a shop to sell railway souvenirs," he said.

"What are they, Sir?" asked Thomas, puzzled.

"You'll see. You're to collect some from a warehouse," replied the Fat Controller.

While Annie and Clarabel rested in the yard, Thomas was coupled to a truck. Then he steamed on his way. By the warehouse, he rolled into a siding so all the goods could be loaded aboard the truck. There were little model engines, copies of railway timetables, charts showing every line on the Fat Controller's railway, photographs of the engines and much more.

"Souvenirs are things to remind passengers of the railway!" explained Thomas's driver. Thomas

returned to the Main Station and the souvenirs were taken to the shop. When it opened next day, there were lots of customers. Thomas saw them all coming and going while he shunted trucks in the yard.

Suddenly, he heard a strange whistling sound. It was getting louder and louder!

"PHEEPETY-PEEP! I've never heard that whistle before!" said Thomas.

"There must be a new engine nearby or perhaps it's a ghost train!"

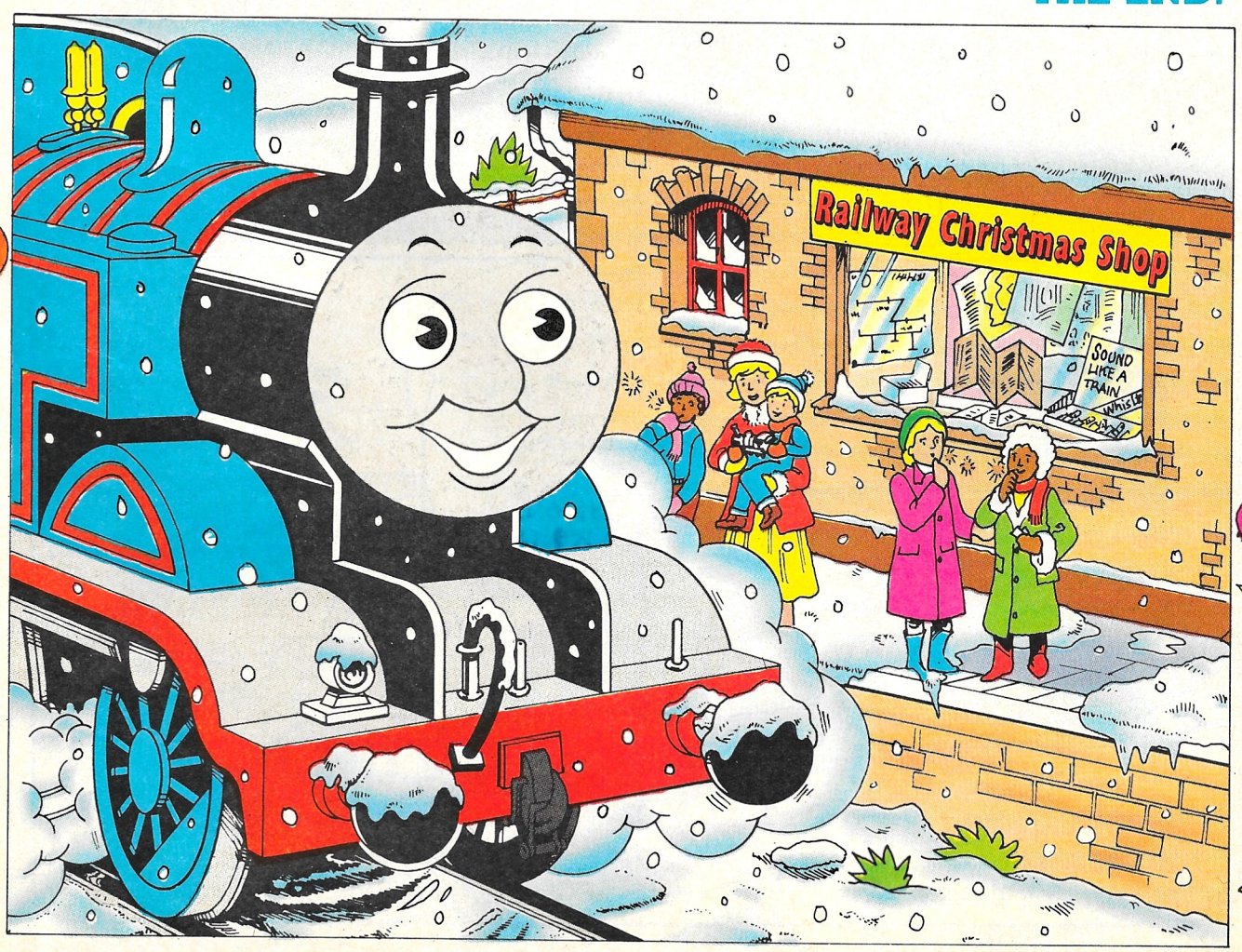
Then Thomas noticed the sound was coming from the railway shop. Some children appeared, blowing whistles they had bought. "Pheepety-peep!"

"Puffing pistons! It's not an engine at all!" gasped Thomas.

"They're souvenir whistles which sound just like real ones!" said his driver.

"No wonder I was fooled!" grinned Thomas.

THE END!



COMPETITION!

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England Est 1759 WEDGWOOD

Characterware Prizes to be won!

6 x 2nd prize winners receive a **Money Box!**

Suggested Retail Price is £12.50

6 x 3rd prize winners receive a **Mug!**

Suggested Retail Price is £6.50

The prizes featured on this page are available from China and Glass shops plus Wedgwood Rooms in leading department stores.

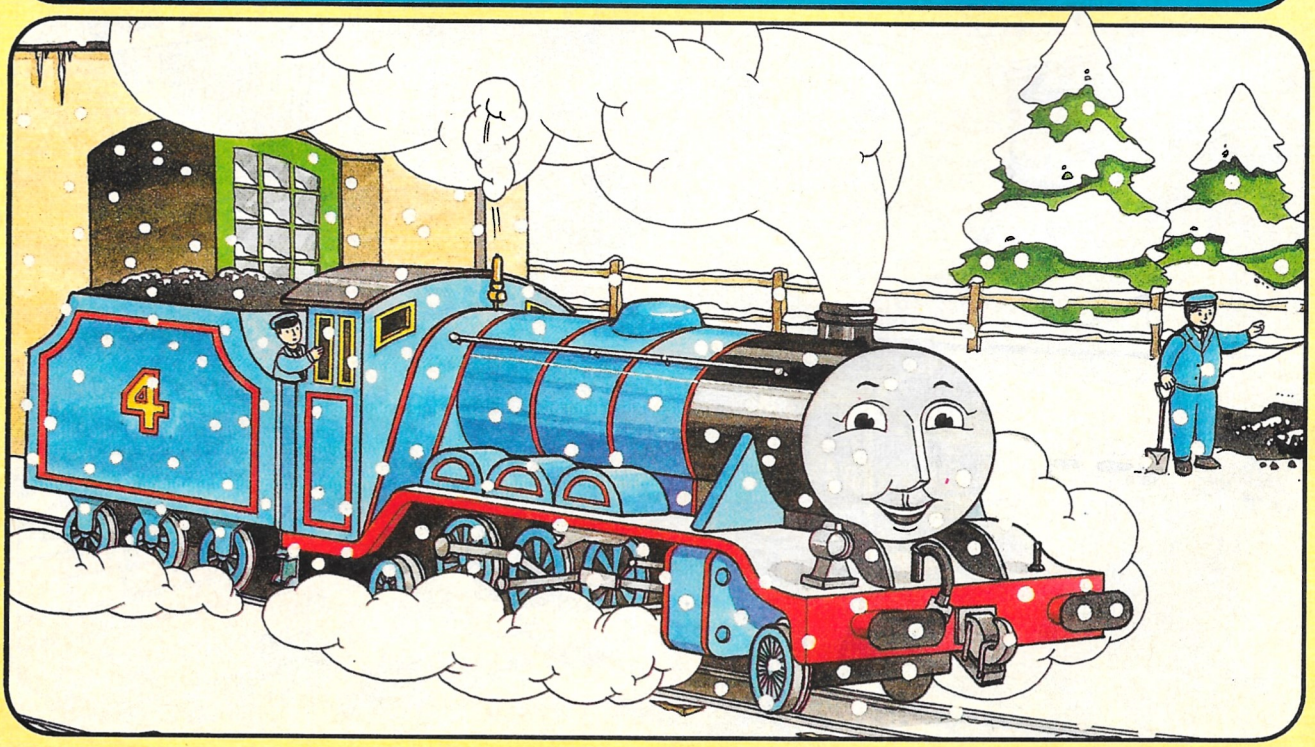
How to enter:

For your chance to win one of these prizes, look at the picture below and write the answers to the following questions on a postcard:

1.Which engine can you see?

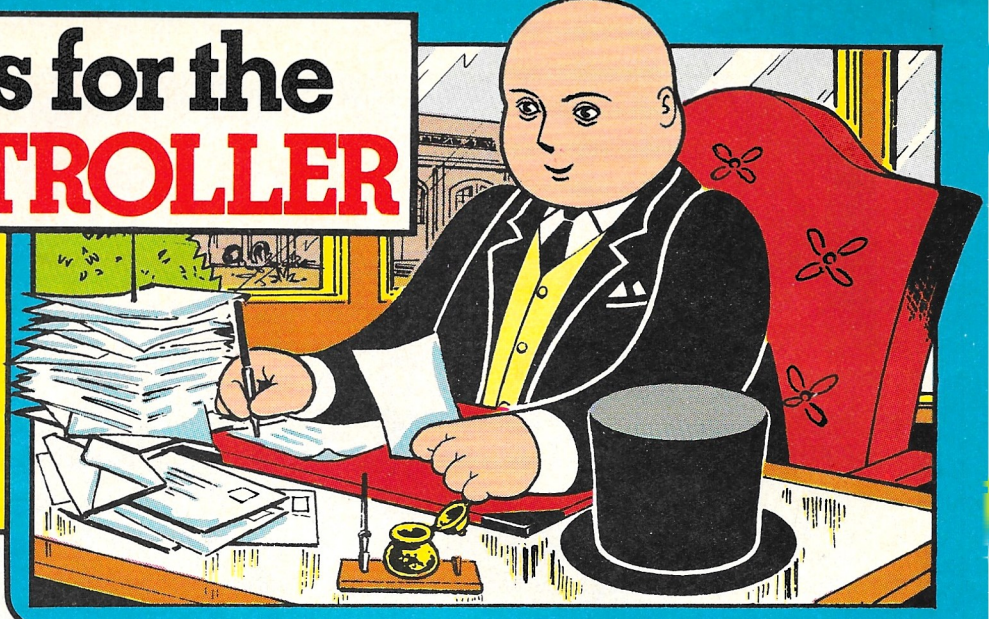
2.Name two other engines with red stripes?

Send your postcard, including both answers and your name and address to ***Thomas/Wedgwood Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.*** Closing date:**January 15th 1994!**



Rules; This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd and Josua Wedgwood & Sons Ltd. Wedgwood® is a registered trademark. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Nanny took me on my first train ride three weeks ago. I enjoyed the journey and everything I saw. No wonder Thomas always looks so happy!

Love from **Steven Catterall**, aged 3.

I'm very pleased you had such an enjoyable journey. I'm sure it will be the first of many splendid occasions for you. May I wish you a very happy Christmas!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE!

Dear Fat Controller,
My Mum and Dad are taking me to see Santa Claus at *Thomas's Santa Express*, near the Embsay Railway in Skipton. Will you be there as well?

Love from **David Robinson**.

I'd love to travel to Skipton, especially to join in your Christmas celebrations but I may be too busy attending my own railway events for the festive season. But I do hope you enjoy meeting Santa Claus!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

HAPPY ENGINES!

Dear Fat Controller,
My favourite day out is when Mum and Dad take me to the *Watercress Railway line* to see all your engines. They always look very happy and I also think you have the best railway of all! Mum says we will visit the railway again this Christmas!

Love from **Adam Harvey Lee**, aged 3.

Well! Thank you very much for your kind comments about my railway. I'm sure you will have a very pleasant Christmas season if you revisit the Watercress Railway!

BIRTHDAYS!

Kevin Diaper, Jack Hart, Christopher John Fisher, Daniel James Northey, Adam and Alexander Jennings, Alex Joseph Beadman, Christopher Rickards, Rachel Bowers, Robbie Lang and belated greetings to Christopher Routledge.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
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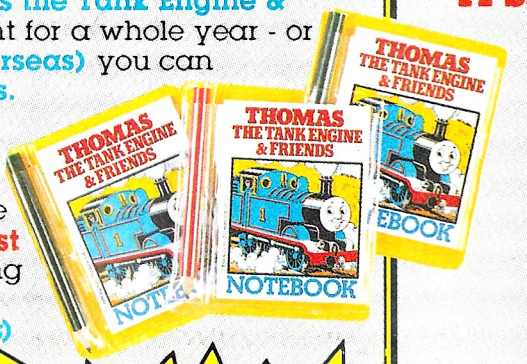
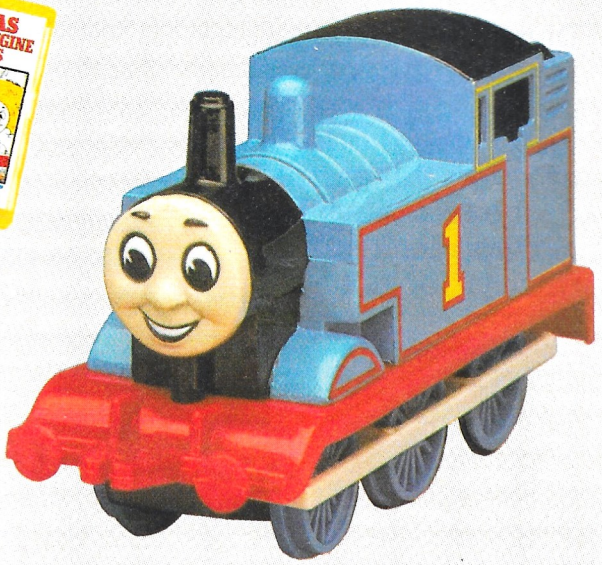
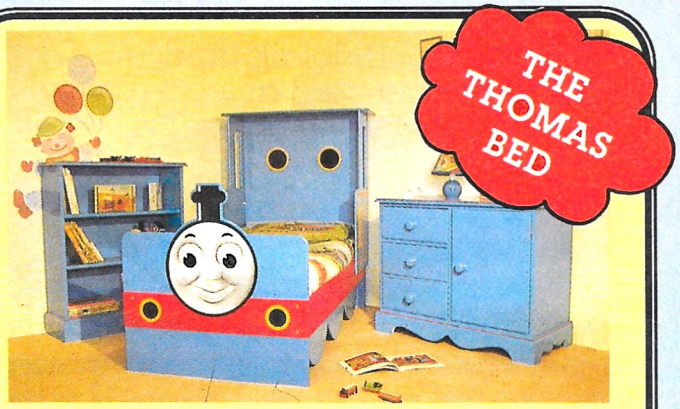


JOSHUA JONES BED DETAILS BELOW!

A SPLENDID GIFT FOR YOU!



THOMAS BED ADVERT ▼



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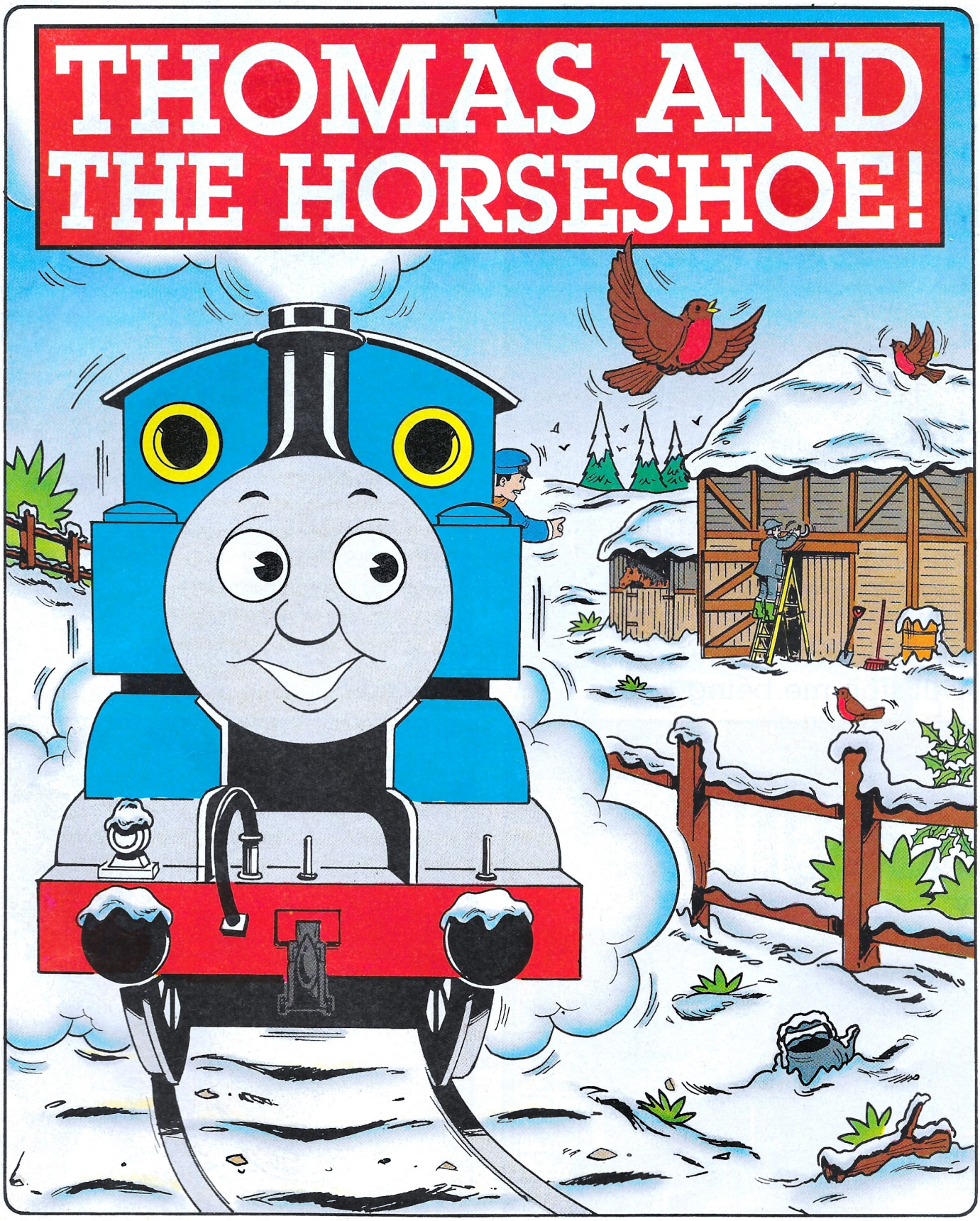
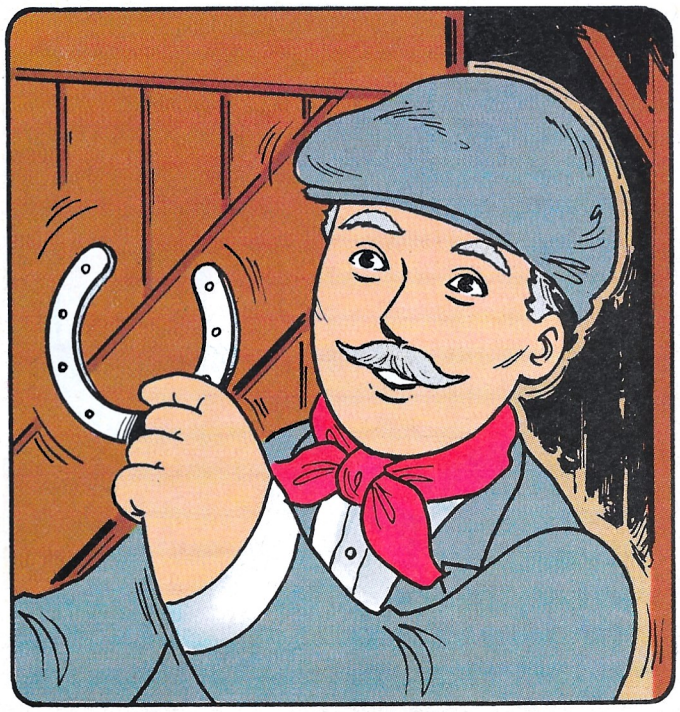
THOMAS AND THE HORSESHOE!



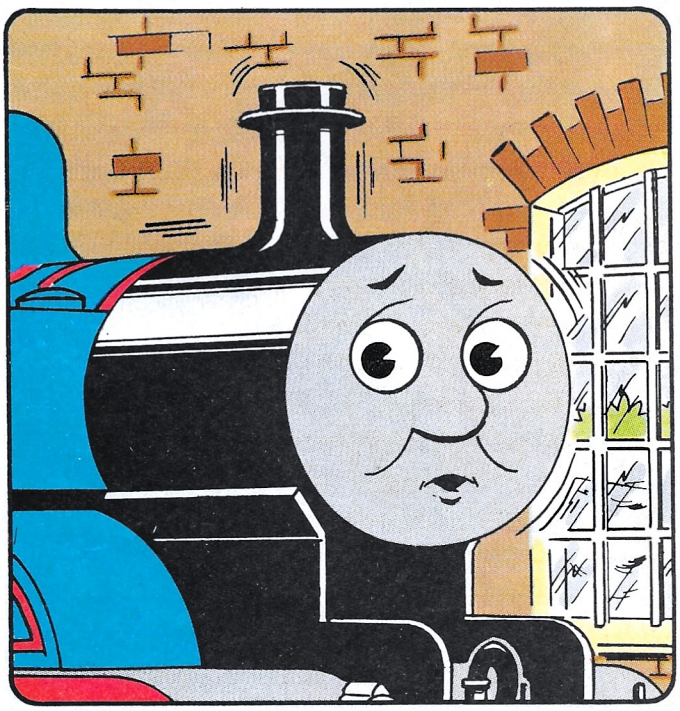
1. It was three days before Christmas and Thomas had lots to do. He steamed busily along his branch line but had to pull up and wait at a signal by a farm.

2. As Thomas waited impatiently, he saw a farmer nailing a horseshoe above his barn door. "Why is he doing that?" "It's meant to bring good luck!" replied his driver.

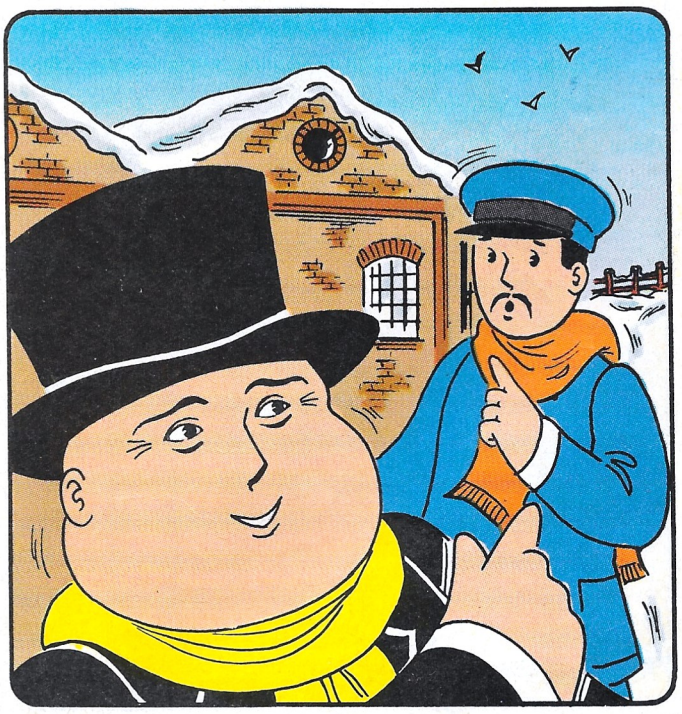


3. The friendly farmer gave Thomas's driver a horseshoe, too. "You can hang it in your cab!" he called. "What a good idea!" said Thomas. "It will stop me being late!"

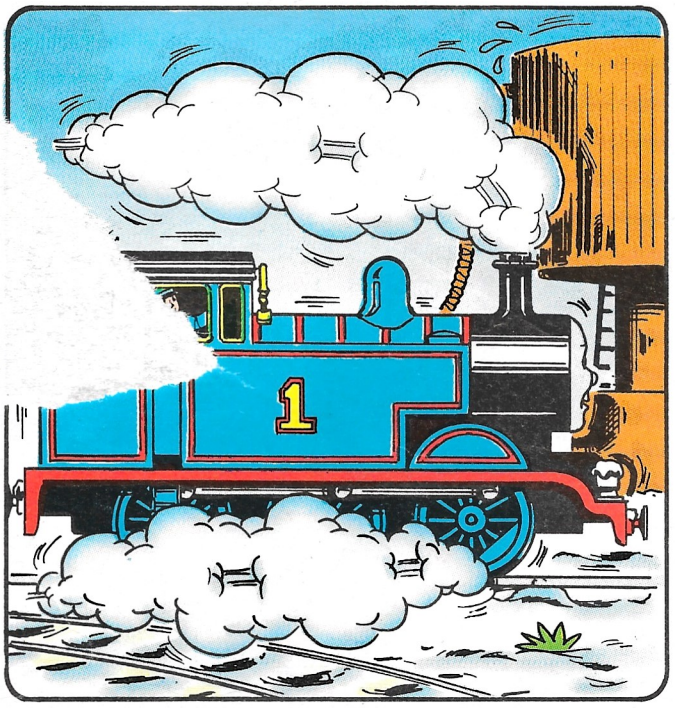
4. Later, at the yard, the driver was fixing up the horseshoe when the Fat Controller arrived. "I've an important task for Thomas tomorrow," he said.



5. The driver agreed to be at work even earlier than usual. But next day, Thomas was still waiting in the shed for him as the other engines rolled outside.



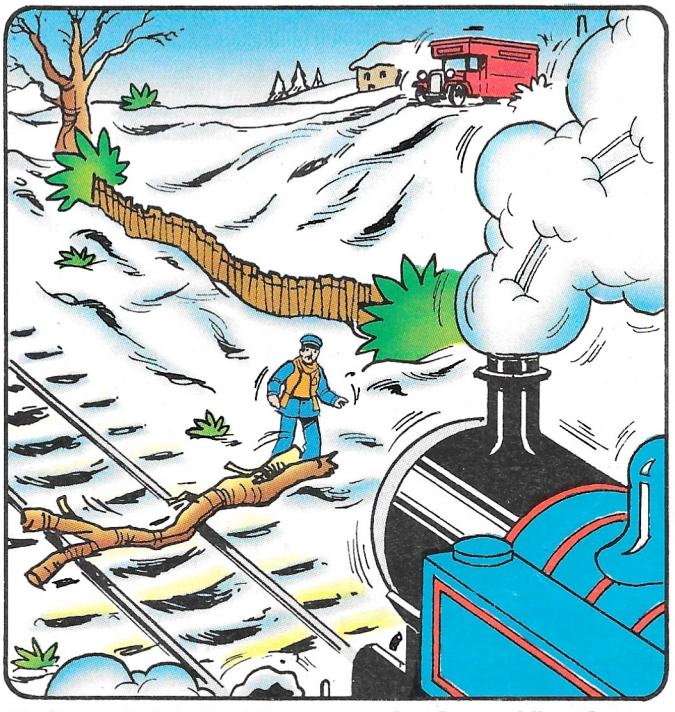
6. Suddenly, his driver hurried into the yard. "Sorry I'm late!" he told the Fat Controller. "I had a burst water-pipe and my phone was out of order!"



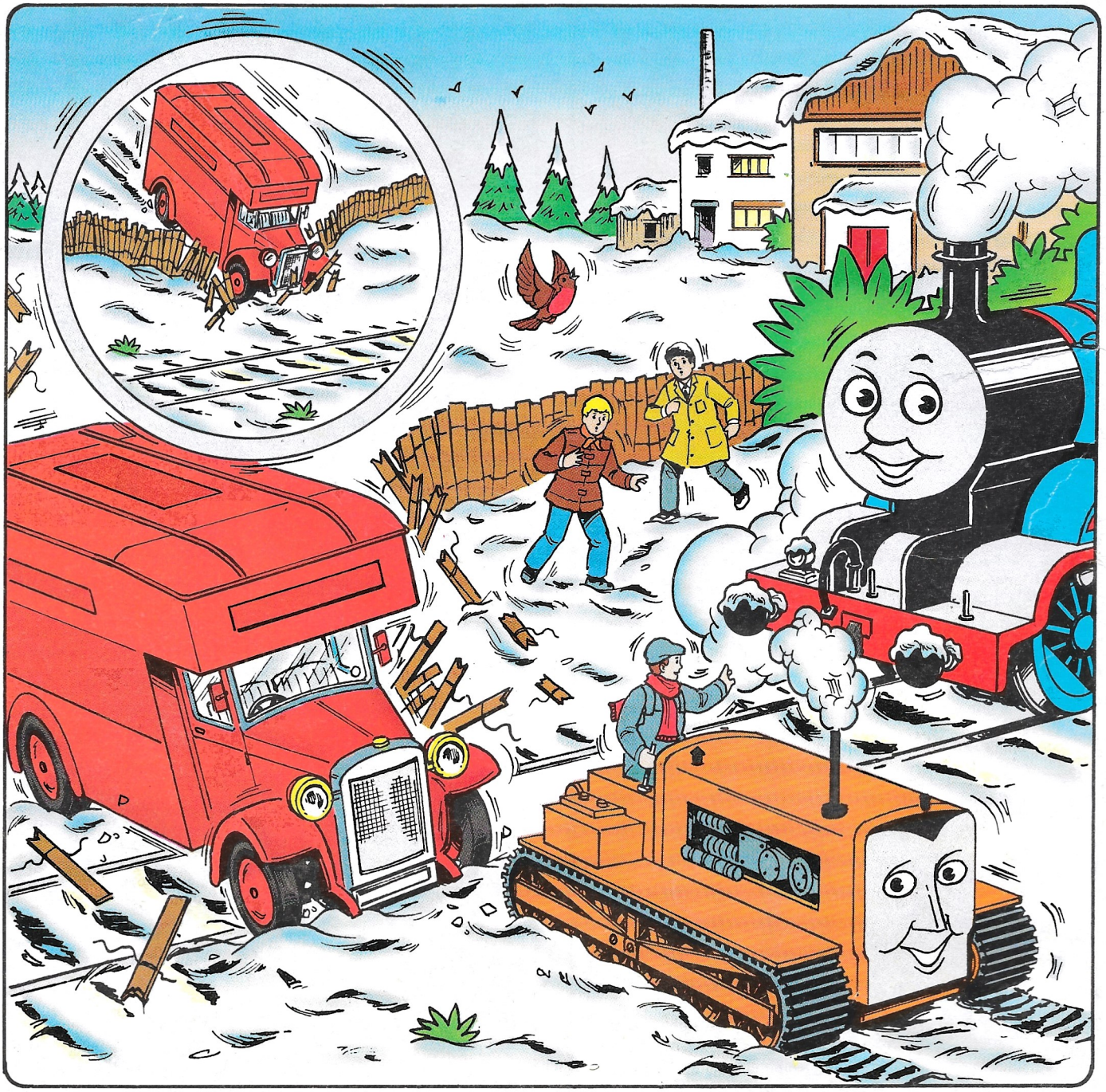
7. Thomas was to collect some Christmas decorations from a factory and deliver them to Wellsworth Station. First, he went to get a drink at the water tower.

8. Suddenly, freezing cold water gushed all over him. The tap was stuck! "Ooooh!" Thomas gasped. "A late start. Now this! So much for that horseshoe being lucky!"

9. The journey was full of delays. As Thomas was wearily approaching the factory, he suddenly saw a branch across the track. Thomas stopped sharply.



10. "Another delay!" he sighed as his driver and the fireman climbed down from the cab to move the branch. "That horseshoe has only brought us bad luck!"



11. As Thomas waited, a lorry arrived at the factory. The driver parked it on a slope near the railway siding and went to see the manager. Next moment, the empty lorry began to roll forwards. Gathering speed, it crashed through a fence onto the line, just where Thomas was supposed to be!

12. "The handbrake must have failed!" cried the driver, running outside with the manager. Terence was sent for to tow the lorry off the track. "If you hadn't pulled up by that branch, the lorry would have hit you, Thomas!" his driver said. "That horseshoe was lucky, after all!" Thomas gasped.

THE END!

In our next issue: Decorated Diesel!